

  
Councilmember Adrian M. Fenty

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Adrian Fenty introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_.

To amend the Child Restraint Act of 1972 to require that any child from birth age to 16 years of age be in a properly installed child safety seat or restrained in a seat belt, to require that children under 12 years of age be restrained in the rear seat of the vehicle, to increase the fine for violating the act from \$55 to \$100, to establish child restraint fitting stations at District fire stations, and to establish a child restraint seat fund to provide free or discounted child restraint seats to disadvantaged persons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
act may be cited as the "Child Restraint Amendment Act of 2001".

Sec. 2. The Child Restraint Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-194;  
D.C. Code §40-1201 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 4 (D.C. Code § 40-1203) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

" (b) The operator of a motor vehicle may not transport any child between birth and age

of 16 years of age unless the child is properly restrained in an approved child safety seat or using  
the vehicle's safety belt. Children between birth age and 8 years of age shall be properly seated in  
an installed infant, convertible (toddler) or booster child safety seat, according to the  
manufactures's instructions. Children under 12 years of age shall be seated in the back seat of the  
vehicle."

(2) Subsection (c) is repealed.

(b) Section 7 (D.C. Code § 40-1206) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the figure "\$55" and inserting the figure  
"\$100" in its place.

(2) A new subsection (a-1) is added to read as follows:

"(a-1) Forty five dollars of the fine generated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
shall be used for a Child Passenger Safety Program to include child restraint fitting stations which  
shall be located at all District of Columbia fire stations and police departments, car seat safety  
training for District of Columbia Metropolitan Police officers, firefighters and EMS officers , and  
the establishment of a child restraint seat fund for children of all ages who are from economically  
disadvantaged families in obtaining those restraint systems free or at a minimal cost. "

(3) A new paragraph (d) is added to read as follows:

"(d) All car rental agencies located in the District of Columbia shall inform their  
customers about the District of Columbia Child Restraint Law and shall provide the customer  
with educational material, and, if necessary, provide a car seat for the client's use."

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact

statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved 1  
December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(3)). 2

Sec. 4. Effective date. 3

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the 4  
Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial Responsibility and 5  
Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of the District of Columbia 6  
Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 7  
Stat. 116; D.C. Code § 47-392.3(a)), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in 8  
section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 9  
Stat. 831; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register. 10